



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 29, 2004

S. 33

An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on September 23, 2004

CBO estimates that enacting S. 33 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The act would increase offsetting receipts and the spending of such receipts, but we estimate that the net impact on direct spending would not exceed \$500,000 a year. S. 33 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 33 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain federal land in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The act would authorize the Secretary to spend, without further appropriation, any proceeds from land sales to acquire, construct, or improve administrative facilities in those states.

According to the Forest Service, the federal properties to be sold or exchanged currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years. By providing authority for the Secretary to sell those properties, CBO expects that enacting S. 33 would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) from land sales. Based on information from the Forest Service regarding the value of the affected land, CBO estimates that the proceeds from such sales would total \$3 million over the 2005-2007 period. We also estimate that those proceeds would largely be spent in the same year they are received; hence, we estimate that the net change in direct spending would not exceed \$500,000 a year.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.